

MR. SPEAKER : I have disallowed that question.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK.

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT.

BLACK MARKETING OF PETROL, DIESEL AND LPG IN EASTERN U.P.

\*206. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the district-wise details of the action taken or being taken by the Government against petrol, diesel and LPG dealers who are selling or have been found selling petroleum products in black-market in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh during the last one year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) : Black-marketing of petrol, diesel or LPG was not found during the inspections by the Oil Companies. Information about inspections and action taken by the State Government is being collected.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Sir, I had given notice of the question in writing 20 days in advance. In reply to this question he has stated that during the inspections by the companies not a single case of corruption was detected. Adulteration of kerosene with petrol, irregularities in measurement and over charging is very common and such complaints are continuously being received from Eastern Uttar Pradesh. This thing has also been published in newspapers. There are seven to eight districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh from where such malpractices have been reported. Similarly water has always been found in gas cylinders. While water is found in gas cylinders or cylinders are supplied under-weight, besides black marketing to such an extent that 4 months back the cylinders were sold at the rate of

Rs. 300 each. I am surprised that though I had sent the notice of the question 21 days in advance, the hon. Minister is replying that not a single case of malpractice came to the notice of the officers of the company during the course of their inspections.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask your question.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a firm called R. K. B. K. in my constituency in Ghazipur district and in Varanasi there is a firm belonging to one Sabharwal. Both these firms are openly indulging in all sorts of malpractices. A Sub-Inspector of Police detected a case in the firm of Sabharwal in Varanasi. The Sub-Inspector was offered a sum of Rs. 1 lakh which he refused to accept. The Sub-Inspector was suspended and he is still under suspension. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of such cases ? Similarly licence of a gas agency at Sigra in Varanasi has been terminated ? Was it done without the knowledge of the hon. Minister ? I would like to know whether he will initiate action against those officers who furnished wrong information to him and whether information regarding these irregularities would be placed on the Table of the House ?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Member's question was specific to Eastern Uttar Pradesh and was specific to the detection of malpractice and black-marketing in petroleum products. Therefore, in the answer we have said that in spite of the inspections we had conducted, no specific case of black-marketing was found or established. We did not say that we have not detected any irregularities.

During the last six months, we had conducted a total number of 1900 inspections of retail outlets in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and five irregularities. (Interruptions)

## [Translation]

**SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :** It was in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. My question is specific with reference to Eastern Uttar Pradesh. (Interruptions)

## [English]

**SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :** Your question was with reference to Eastern Uttar Pradesh. I am also answering with specific reference to Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

During the last six months, we had conducted a total number of 1900 inspections of retail outlets in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and five irregularities were detected. And action has been taken in all the five cases.

Similarly 310 inspections of LPG Agencies were conducted in Eastern Uttar Pradesh during the last six months and 93 irregularities were detected. And in all these cases, action as per law has been taken.

I would like to add that we have delegated powers under the various control orders relating to petrol as well as LPG to the State Government also. And the State Government is also concurrently conducting inspections and taking actions as per law.

## [Translation]

**SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :** The hon. Minister did not say this in his reply to the main question. Sir, now I put my second supplementary question. Just one day before the Budget was presented prices of petrol were either hiked or petrol was shown as "not available" at all the petrol pump of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Scores of telegrams and complaints were sent to the Ministry and complaints were also lodged with the district authorities in this regard. Along with this, the Government which was in power at the Centre last year with their support conducted several interviews for the grant of licences for petrol pumps and resorted to large scale malpractices and corruption. Will the Government conduct any enquiry into the matter?

## [English]

**MR. SPEAKER :** Second part is disallowed. You can answer the first part.

**SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :** It is a very general and vague observation. It is quite possible that some of the retailers of both LPG and petrol might have misused the presentation of the Budget and the period immediately preceding the Budget for indulging in mal-practices. Any action which will be specifically brought to the notice of the Government will be strictly acted upon.

**SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT :** The incidence of black-marketing of these commodities is noticeable where there is no alternative source of transportation and where the transportation is dependent on road. This is more aggravated in hilly and backward areas. Is the Government taking any action to ensure that the supplies in these areas are efficient and there is no shortage felt? Secondly, will there be special attention paid for hilly and backward areas?

**SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :** We have an annual marketing plan and expansion of the retail outlet plan by the oil companies which specifically take into account this problem, namely, the supply in the inaccessible areas. So this is taken into account in the annual incremental plan where new outlets are allotted. For instance, in eastern UP about which the main question originated, the State Government have themselves issued what is called sub-licences to existing retail outlets. And these sub-licences are entitled to store products for supply to inaccessible areas.

## [Translation]

**SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any cases of malpractices relating to irregular supply of petrol in Ghazipur district of Eastern Uttar Pradesh have come to the notice of the hon. Minister and if so, action being taken by the Government in those cases?

[*English*]

**SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :** My general answer covers this question. It is not possible to answer with reference to each of the 460 districts of the country.

[*Translation*]

*Reinstatement of Employees*

\*207. **SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the employees dismissed under Rule 14(ii) of the Railway Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules have since been reinstated; and
- (b) if not, the time by which these employees are likely to be reinstated ?

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :** (a) and (b) : Those employees whose appeals were upheld departmentally and those who were required to be taken back as per judicial orders have been reinstated. The issue regarding the remaining cases is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is so important that it has been a matter of discussion in the House for the last two years. When the Congress Party was in the opposition, its Members raised this demand persistently. The then Railway Minister had said categorically that the Government would certainly do away with this rule and the dismissed employees would be reinstated. But I am distressed to point out that the reply which the hon. Minister has given say... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** You know the question and the reply is also before you. Now you put the second supplementary.

**SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :** What is troubling me is that the

Government had given this assurance at the time of presentation of Railway Budget also, but now the reply says that those employees whose appeals were upheld departmentally and those who....

**MR. SPEAKER :** This has already been read out. You put the question.

**SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :** What I want to say is that the reply given by the hon. Minister has no meaning at all. I want a categorical reply in the matter. I would like to know the number of such employees and the time by which they would be reinstated ? To say that the matter is under consideration would not help. Tell us the time by which they would be reinstated.

**SHRI M. MALLIKARJUN :** Sir, actually the issue was raised that there are 700 people to be re-instated. In fact, it is not like that. . . . (*Interruptions*). There were 711 persons, out of whom 611 belonged to LRSA and 100 belonged to some other organisations. Then, out of the 611 because of appeals and revision, 20 people were taken and then again because of appeals and revision from non-LRSA Association 18 people were taken, making it altogether 38. Then, because of the judicial judgements 268 of LRSA were taken and one of non-LRSA person was taken. That is how a total of 288 LRSA persons re-instated and 19 of the non-LRSA persons have been re-instated, leaving behind 323 of LRSA persons and 81 of non-LRSA persons to be reinstated. However, in the meanwhile, 70 people have attained super-annuation and before achieving the superannuation 11 people had died. After achieving the superannuation three people had died. Now, out of 404 total to be re-instated, it is only 320 people left for re-instatement... (*Interruptions*). As you are all aware last time in the Budget reply the Minister has also committed that this matter will be considered in the Cabinet... (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

**SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, last time also, it was said that their cases would be considered sympathetically. The hon. Minister is present in the House. I want a reply on